

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. In a platform attached to supports of an over the highway truck or tractor that includes a plate including an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the improvement comprises:

a) a first plurality of elongated members having a first length extending from said lower surface;

b) a first plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said first elongated members;

c) a second plurality of elongated latching members having a second length extending from said lower surface;

d) a second plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said second elongated members, said first and second lengths accommodating attachment of said plate to supports having varying thicknesses.

2. The platform of claim 1 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion that includes threads and a cam surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said cam surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

3. The platform of claim 2 further comprising tapered projections extending from said cam surface and a tab that extends from said lower surface and engages said tapered projections when said fastener is rotated to allow rotation of said fastener in a first direction and inhibit rotation of said fastener in a second direction.

4. The platform of claim 1 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for

rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

5. The platform of claim 1 wherein said heads on said first and second ends of said elongated portion are hex heads.

6. The platform of claim 1 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said threaded portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate such that said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

7. A platform for attachment to supports of varying thicknesses on an over the highway truck or tractor, comprising:

- a) a plate including an upper surface and a lower surface;
- b) a first plurality of elongated members having a first length extending from said lower surface;
- c) a first plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said first elongated members:
- d) a second plurality of elongated latching members having a second length extending from said lower surface;
- e) a second plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said second elongated members;

f) a third plurality of elongated latching members having a third length extending from said lower surface; and

g) a third plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said third elongated members, said first, second, and third lengths accommodating attachment of said plate to supports having varying thicknesses.

8. The platform of claim 7 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion and a cam surface extending radially outward from said threaded portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said cam surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

9. The platform of claim 8 further comprising tapered projections extending from said cam surface and a tab that extends from said lower surface and engages said tapered projections when said fastener is rotated to allow rotation of said fastener in a first direction and inhibit rotation of said fastener in a second direction.

10. The platform of claim 7 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said threaded portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

11. The platform of claim 7 wherein said heads on said first and second ends of said elongated portion are hex heads.

12. The platform of claim 7 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said threaded portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole through said plate such that said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

13. The platform of claim 7 wherein said plate is constructed from molded plastic with a thin vertically oriented metal section integrally molded in the plate to provide resistance to sagging.

14. In a platform attached to supports of an over the highway truck or tractor that includes a plate having an upper surface, a lower surface, a first side and a second side, wherein the improvement comprises:

a) a first plurality of elongated members extending from said lower surface along said first side;

b) a plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said elongated members, said latching hooks engage one of said supports to constrain said first side; and

c) a lip extending from said lower surface that defines a channel between said lower surface and said lip along said second side, said channel disposed around one of said supports to constrain said second side.

15. The platform of claim 14 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion and a cam surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of

said fastener brings said cam surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

16. The platform of claim 14 further comprising tapered projections extending from said cam surface and a tab that extends from said lower surface and engages said tapered projections when said fastener is rotated to allow rotation of said fastener in a first direction and inhibit rotation of said fastener in a second direction.

17. The platform of claim 14 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

18. The platform of claim 14 wherein said heads on said first and second ends of said elongated portion are hex heads.

19. The platform of claim 14 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole through said plate such that said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

20. A platform for attachment to supports on an over the highway truck or tractor, comprising:

- a) a plate including an upper surface , a lower surface, a first side and a second side;
- b) a first plurality of elongated members extending from said lower surface along said first side;
- c) a plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said elongated members, said latching hooks engage a first support to constrain said first side; and
- d) a lip extending from said lower surface that defines a channel between said lower surface and said lip along said second side, said channel disposed around a second support to constrain said second side.

21. The platform of claim 20 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion and a cam surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said cam surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

22. The platform of claim 20 further comprising tapered projections extending from said cam surface and a tab that extends from said lower surface and engages said tapered projections when said fastener is rotated to allow rotation of said fastener in a first direction and inhibit rotation of said fastener in a second direction.

23. The platform of claim 20 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a

threaded hole in said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

24. The platform of claim 20 wherein said heads on said first and second ends of said elongated portion are hex heads.

25. The platform of claim 20 further comprising a fastener including an elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole through said plate such that said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

26. In a platform attached to supports of an over the highway truck or tractor that includes a plate including an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein the improvement comprises a fastener including an elongated threaded portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener and an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said elongated portion including threads mounted in a threaded hole through said plate such that said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

27. The platform of claim 26 wherein said arcuate surface defines a cam.

28. The platform of claim 26 wherein said heads on said first and second ends of said elongated portion are hex heads.

29. The platform of claim 26 wherein said arcuate surface defines a portion of a circle such that said fastener can be rotated to clear said support during assembly.

30. The platform of claim 26 further comprising tapered projections extending from said cam surface and a tab that extends from said lower surface and engages said tapered projections when said fastener is rotated to allow rotation of said fastener in a first direction and inhibit rotation of said fastener in a second direction.

31. A fastener for securing a platform to supports of an over the highway truck or tractor, the platform includes a plate including an upper surface and a lower surface, said fastener comprises:

- a) an elongated portion having first and second ends, said elongated portion including threads;
- b) a first head defined at said first end for rotating said fastener;
- c) a second head defined at said second end for rotating said fastener;
- d) an arcuate surface extending radially outward from said elongated portion, said first head accommodates rotation of said fastener from an upper side of said plate and said second head accommodates rotation of said fastener from a lower side of said plate to bring said arcuate surface into engagement with a support.

32. The fastener of claim 31 wherein said arcuate surface defines a cam.

33. The fastener of claim 31 wherein said heads on said first and second ends of said elongated portion are hex heads.

34. The fastener of claim 31 wherein said arcuate surface defines a portion of a circle such that said fastener can be rotated to clear said support.

35. The fastener of claim 31 further comprising tapered projections extending from said arcuate surface.

36. A platform for attachment to supports of varying thicknesses on an over the highway truck or tractor, comprising:

- a) a plate including an upper surface and a lower surface;
- b) a first plurality of elongated members having a first length extending from said lower surface;
- c) a first plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said first elongated members;
- d) a second plurality of elongated latching members having a second length extending from said lower surface;
- e) a second plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said second elongated members;
- f) a third plurality of elongated latching members having a third length extending from said lower surface;
- g) a third plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said third elongated members, said first, second, and third lengths accommodating attachment of said plate to supports having varying thicknesses;
- h) a threaded hole defined in said plate extending through said upper and said lower surface of said plate; and
- i) a fastener including an elongated portion having threads disposed in said threaded hole, said elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener, an arcuate surface extends radially outward from said threaded portion, said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded

hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.

37. A platform for attachment to supports on an over the highway truck or tractor, comprising:

a) a plate including an upper surface, a lower surface, a first side and a second side;

b) a first plurality of elongated members extending from said lower surface along said first side;

c) a plurality of latching hooks defined on end portions of said elongated members, said latching hooks engage a first support to constrain said first side; and

d) a lip extending from said lower surface that defines a channel between said lower surface and said lip along said second side, said channel disposed around a second support to constrain said second side;

e) a threaded hole defined in said plate extending through said upper and said lower surface of said plate; and

f) a fastener including an elongated portion with threads disposed in said threaded hole, said elongated portion having first and second ends that each include a head for rotating said fastener, an arcuate surface extends radially outward from said elongated portion, said first head is rotatable by accessing said first head from an upper side of said plate and said second head is rotatable by accessing said head from a lower side of said plate, said threaded hole being located such that rotation of said fastener brings said arcuate surface into engagement with a support to brace said platform.